SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

24 JUNE 2001

$4.99

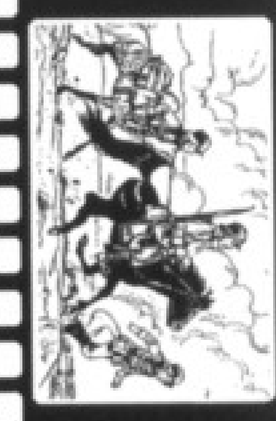
Mature Themes

Curtis

Katmandu

Curtis

Shanda Fisher!



THE SHANDA FANTASY ARTS CREW

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The INNER CIRCLE

"YOU'RE A TRACER! YOU DON'T DRAW, YOU TRACE!"

Every inker remembers that scene from CHASING AMY, and if they haven't seen it, they've heard enough about it.

What does an inker do? He takes the pencils and goes over them in ink. Sounds simple, but it's not. A bad inker can wreck beautiful pencils. A good inker inhances them, and in the best of cases, the inker and penciller go together like a hand in a glove.

We've got some good ones here at SFA. SHANE FISHER, our art director, started with us inking KATMANDU. He's also known for his own feature WINDFALL in UNITED PUBLICATIONS.

STEVE ADDLESEE has probably been with us longer than anyone else, and on almost every title. Most of his work has been on SHANDA THE PANDA, which he's been on since issue 15. Currently he's on EXTINCTIONERS and drawing FAWN.

ED GARCIA is quite the artist in his own right, having drawn a lot of pages for SHANDA and KATMANDU, where he currently embellishes Shawntae Howard's pencils. MARY BELLAMY is new to us, doing pencils and inks in the current NEW HORIZONS, and will be inking Heather Maranda on SHANDA. And Sara Palmer will be debuting a new inker in SANDI WILKINSON, who's quite an artist herself.

Of course, one of the first inkers we ever worked with was MARK BARNARD, who has gone on to write HAVOC INC. with Terrie Smith for RADIO.

CHARLES ETTINGER, currently on ATOMIC MOUSE, started off inking SHANDA.

There's lots more, but the names above work on SCORES of books and titles, not just for us, but many others.

And they do it all without tracing!

Mike and Carole

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Katmandu

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS
CONCLUSION

WELL, TOMORROW WE GO HOME. I'VE MISSED THE KITS.

I HAVEN'T MISSED THE INTERRUPTIONS AT BEDTIME-

BETTER GET USED TO THEM! WHEN THESE KITTENS ARRIVE, SLEEP AND ANYTHING ELSE WILL BE PRETTY PRECIOUS!

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS ART: SHAWNTAE HOWARD LETTERS: CHARLES GRAY

BUT WE HAVE A WHILE BEFORE THOSE KITTENS SHOW UP.

NOT **THAT** LONG--

-SO YOU BETTER MAKE THE MOST OF OUR BEING ALONE WHILE YOU CAN.

YES **MA'AM!**

AFTERWARD, I'LL TELL YOU A BEDTIME STORY ABOUT LISKA AND HESTA-

GET BACK HERE, JERYN!

NOTHING DOING!

I WANT TO SEE THAT GIANT WARRIOR!

AND THEY SAID SHE WAS BY THE PACK LIZARDS-

ULP!

HE RAN UP TO ME AND FAINTED.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT CHILD?

HERE, I KNOW HIS MOTHER. LISKA IS WAITING FOR YOU BY MY TENT.

IS THAT **YOUR** BIG WARRIOR?

YES, THAT'S HESTA.

GOOD MORNING, HESTA

MY NAME IS TOVAR. I'M POWNETKEE'S STRONGEST WARRIOR.

NICE TO MEET YOU-

I SAW YOU DURING THE RAID TO FREE OUR PEOPLE TAKEN AS SLAVES.

I WONDER IF I COULD PERSUADE YOU TO TRAVEL WITH US? GOOD TRADING AND GOOD COMPANION--SHIP.

I HAVE A NECKLACE, PRETTY ENOUGH FOR YOUR BEAUTIFUL NECK. YOU MAY HAVE IT AS A GIFT,

OR-SINCE YOU LIKE TO TRADE-PERHAPS YOU'LL ACCEPT IT FOR YOUR TIME?

THIS NECKLACE IS GORGEOUS! BUT I PROMISED LISKA I'D ACCOMPANY HER BACK TO HER VILLE.

COULD YOU RETURN?

IF YOU GAVE ME TWO DAYS I COULD.

VERY WELL. IF POWNETKEE DECIDES TO LEAVE BEFORE THEN, I'LL BE HERE, WITH WARM FURS WAITING.

LOOK FOR ME THEN, TOVAR.

"WARM FURS" I THINK HE PLANS FOR WARMING THOSE FURS.

COULD BE.

I THINK IT'S GOING TO RAIN.

IT'LL KEEP US COOL. PLEASE HELP KEEP ME AWAKE BY FINISHING YOUR STORY.

AFTER YOUR MOM THREW YOU OUT, YOU APPRENTICED YOUR SELF TO A TRADER?

"OH YES. PEPPER GOT HURT AND I WENT ON A TRADING EXPEDITION. I CAME BACK AND SURPRISED MY SISTER RADWIN WITH PEPPER."

YOU MUST BE HUNGRY AFTER YOUR TRIP, HESTA-- LET ME GET DRESSED AND I'LL FIX YOU SOMETHING.

THERE'S STEW I CAN WARM UP-

RADWIN-

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SHARING FURS WITH PEPPER?

SINCE TWO NIGHTS AFTER YOU LEFT.

IF HE FORCED HIMSELF ON YOU-

HESTA! *HUSH!*

I'VE DESIRED PEPPER FOR SOME TIME. I JUMPED IN **HIS** FURS.

SO LOSE THAT TEMPER.

-BUT IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, WE PLAN TO MARRY NEXT LIAR'S MOON.

WHAT ABOUT A BRIDEPRICE.

PEPPER KNOWS ABOUT OUR MOTHER. HE DOESN'T LIKE HER AND DOESN'T CARE ABOUT A DOWERY. NOW COME EAT!

"AS IT TURNED OUT, PEPPER **WASN'T** VERY FOND OF OUR MOTHER (SHE HAD CHEATED HIM ON A TRADE ONCE AND HE NEVER DEALT WITH HER AGAIN.) NOW THAT WE WERE PRACTICALLY FAMILY, HE FELT FREE TO TALK ABOUT IT. WHEN I HAD FIRST APPROACHED HIM FOR WORK, HE WAS LEERY OF HIRING ME BECAUSE OF OUR MOTHER, UNTIL HE FOUND OUT THAT SHE'D DISOWNED US. THEN HE **HAD** TO HAVE ME FOR AN APPRENTICE."

"SINCE PEPPER STILL WASN'T FULLY HEALED, I SET OUT ON ANOTHER TRADING EXPEDITION. BUT I WAS BACK IN TIME FOR THE WEDDING!"

"PEPPER DIDN'T TRAVEL MUCH ANYMORE-- HE LEFT THAT TO ME. I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME TRAVELING. TIME WENT ON--"

"-AND ON. MY SISTER'S FAMILY GREW."

"-- AND GREW. PEPPER APPRENTICED TWO MORE WORKERS, ONE FOR THE STORE AND ANOTHER FOR TRAVEL. SINCE MY APPRENTICESHIP WAS ENDING, I STAYED LONG ENOUGH TO HELP TRAIN THE NEW PEOPLE, THEN--"

"I DECIDED TO STRIKE OUT ON MY OWN, TRADING FURS FOR WEAPONS, WEAPONS FOR HERBS, HERBS FOR STONES, AND STONES BACK FOR FURS. AND I MET TYJER AGAIN. WE TRAVELED TOGETHER AND I LEARNED MORE COMBAT SKILLS. THINGS OCCASIONALLY GOT "EXCITING" AND I NEEDED TO DEFEND MYSELF."

"FINALLY, I DECIDED TO START TRADING IN THE FRONTIER VELITE TERRITORIES. EVERYONE I MET WAS SMALLER THAN I WAS. I FOUND THOSE SLAVERS

AND TOLD THE NEXT TRIBE I VISITED-- **YOURS.**"

SOME STORY...
SOME FAMILY...

DO YOU SEE YOUR SISTER OFTEN?

EVERY FEW MOONS. I HAVE A NEPHEW WHO MIGHT REALLY TURN OUT TO BE SOMETHING IN A FEW YEARS.

WAR CHIEF LISKA!

TAKU! OUT HUNTING?

I'LL HAVE SHAYGIN BAKE YOU A CORN CAKE IF YOU RUN THIS BAG TO PANKA AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

NOT HAVING MUCH LUCK, THOUGH.

HE'LL PULL THROUGH?

THAT'S WHAT MOTHER SONNA THINKS. SHE AND WISSA ARE OUR BEST HEALERS.

THE FURS ARE CALLING ME EVEN THOUGH IT'S MIDDAY.

AND SHAYGUN WILL HAVE A GOOD MEAL PREPARED.

WHY DON'T YOU SHARE OUR TENT TODAY?

GET FULL AND RESTED AND **THEN** GO SEE YOUR WAITING WARRIOR.

THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

OF ALL THE PLACES I SEE, NONE IS MORE VALUED TO ME THAN-

--HOME!
THAT'S WHAT MEANT THE MOST TO LISKA, AND THAT'S WHERE I CAN'T WAIT TO RETURN TOMORROW.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, **THAT** IS MY HOME.

NEXT ISSUE: KATMANDU'S 25TH ISSUE!

ART BY SHAUN THE HOUARD HARTMANOU CHARACTERS COPYRIGHT 1998 CAROLE CURTIS